SCRAPE THE WINDSHEILD AND WARM UP THE CAR, HERE'S ANOTHER ISSUE OF

CULTURE CRINGE

FREE

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

CHEAP

MURFREESBORO'S PROVIDER OF THE WERID AND COOL SINCE 2012

NOT ANOTHER WINTER ISSUE

DECEMBER 2023

WELCOME TO CULTURE CRINGE WINTER 2024 ISSUE #45 VOLUME 12

YOUR QUARTERLY RELIABLE PRINT ZINE!! (c)

LAST ISSUE SAW US INCREASE THE CIRCULATION BY MORE THAN I EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE. IT IS LIKELY THAT YOU WERE REACHED BECAUSE OF THIS INCREASE. FEEL FREE TO SEND ANY QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR GENERAL INPUT TO culturecringemedia@gmail.com

VERY excited to have an interview with Jim Spellman of the now-legendary SUB POP band VELOCITY GIRL in this issue. Looking back over the past year, I can honestly say that I was very proud of the chats I had with cool people on behalf of Culture Cringe (c). Frankie Rose, Jae Matthews of Boy Harsher, Rosie from The March Violets (still can't believe that one), and more. Now I'm not gonna make one of those "this is what I did in 2023" posts but I guess this section will serve as that. I do like talking to people and I found a way to incorporate it into my bedroom published printing thingy. As someone somewhere once said, "that's something to be proud of"

It has been rumored for a while now (BY ME) that CULTURE CRINGE RADIO could be returning WELL LET ME TELL YOU i think it is!! For those of you who don't remember, CC RADIO was a podcast that started around 2012 and was basically one of two things: either me playing weird old records and local bands, or me "interviewing" people. I would CRINGE to hear some of those old episodes and I'm glad they're not out there in the wild anymore - although they served a purpose at the time FOR SURE! Me in true "me fashion" stopped doing them right as podcasts really took off. I dunno I've kinda been thinking it could be fun to get back into it and well here we are. I'll post if I do indeed bring them back on my instacram...maybe on that FB thing too if I can remember how to log in. AND AS ALWAYS, remember to smash that like and subscribe button here on this zine - much appreciated

we need to talk about the abrupt installation of the christmas decor on the murfreesboro square, seconds after the conclusion of halloween proper, as if it was a sort of "reclaim" exercise, in which no one was impressed. while the powers that be likely imagine that the heathens hiss and run at the sight of xmas in general, the joke is on them as the psychological effect on the population created by the premature adoption of xmas cheer by a governing, municipal group only results in the shutting down of productivity by up to 73% of the working force as they adopt the mental stance of heading in to the holiday season and the "starting fresh" mindset of the new year. I THOUGHT WE ALL KNEW THIS, it's nothing new.

PLEASE FIND, IN THIS ZINE, A CUSTOMER QUALITY CONTROL SURVEY TO BE COMPLETED AT YOUR LEISURE. IN THE MEANTIME, HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR EXPERIENCE SO FAR? TOUCH THE APPROPRIATE REACTION OR PRESS "SKIP"

SKIP

CATCHING UP WITH JIM SPELLMAN OF THE ONE....

THE ONLY....THE LEGENDARY.....

VELOCITY GIRL

WASHINGTON D.C.'S VELOCITY GIRL RECENTLY REUNITED TO PLAY THEIR FIRST SHOWS IN OVER TWENTY YEARS - MUCH TO THE EXCITEMENT OF LONG TIME FANS. I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO CATCH UP WITH FOUNDING MEMBER JIM SPELLMAN AND ASK A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT SUB POP'S FINEST INDIE POP BAND (ALSO ONE OF MY ALL TIME FAVES)

READ ON!!

I remember discovering **Velocity Girl** in 1994 - I was 16, living in a small southern town, and luckily I could pick up Vanderbilt's student run radio station on my boom box. I remember hearing the song **Sorry Again** and being like..WHO. IS. THIS?? It was one of those situations where I didn't catch the band name at first..so I had to straight up call in and ask: who sang that catchy "well I guess that I was wrong" song?

Ah, **Velocity Girl**! Yeah, I had seen their name in some magazines, but had no idea what they sounded like. Needless to say, I soon convinced a friend who drove to take me to **Media Play** (I didn't start driving till I was 17) and totally scored their album **Simpatico** on CD. I was hooked and have been a fan ever since! When their third album - **Gilded Stars and Zealous Hearts** - dropped in '96, I drove after school to buy it ON RELEASE DAY. Then, I recreated the cover art for my senior year art painting project. I got a B....the teacher didn't understand the concept.

I still have it. A few months after that album came out **VG** played **Exit-In** in Nashville with **The Posies**. It was the same night as senior prom..... EASY DECISION. I went to see the show and it stands out as one of the highlights of my teenage years. **VG** called it quits soon after. Sometime around 2008 or so I found myself with a ton of spare time after my own band called it quits and I was in a state of mega limbo. I bought a video camera and in a major fit of boredom, I made a fan video for one of VG's lesser known B-sides...a song called **Marzipan**.

It features a sunny apartment full of big-eyed dolls and for some reason I thought it fit the vibe of the song. It turned out pretty good! A few years later, VG drummer **Jim Spellman** reached out to me about it and asked if I would be down to make a video for his new band, **Julie Ocean**. I totally agreed and had a blast working on that. It was one of those moments where I was like...WOW, I'm getting to work on a vid for the someone who was in one of my favorite bands of all time! Well, fast forward to 2023: **VG** reunited to play some reunion shows - so I figured it was worth a shot to try and get an interview. Jim agreed, so here we are! I can't stress how cool this is. **FULL CIRCLE**.

Here's my interview with Jim of Velocity Girl.

CC: Of all the things that Velocity Girl accomplished over the years, is there a single thing that you are most proud of? Is there one event, show, song, or experience that you find yourself thinking: WOW , WE DID THAT??

Jim: One thing tends to replace the next. You tour the US and it feels like an amazing accomplishment, but then you go to England and play in London or one of the big festivals like **Reading** and it feels like now you've really made it!

But the thing I go back to is when we received the **I Don't Care if you Go** single from the pressing plant and slid the first one into the sleeves we had printed. I was now on an actual record! It was everything I had dreamt about when I thought about being in a band. At that time, I had no further dreams or hopes for my life in a band. We had now made a record. Something permanent.
It felt like magic then and it still feels like magic now.

CC: After reuniting and playing some shows together for the first time in over two decades, what would you say has been the most unexpected, yet rewarding experience from getting back together? I'm sure there have been many..

Jim: It has been very moving to see the extent that our music has been woven into the lives of fans. We have met dozens of people who traveled from all over the country to attend the four shows we have played so far. People have been singing along to all the words. It seems to really mean something.

It's hard to get a handle on what impact music has on people. It can be such a personal thing. To talk with people at the shows has been very affirming. I hope they have enjoyed the shows!

CC: From what I have heard from the reunion shows, it sounds like VG hasn't missed a beat. Was it like riding a bike when you all rehearsed for the first time this past year? Were there any challenges, or was it like second nature?

CONTINUED

Jim: Second nature might be pushing it but it hasn't been too bad. It was a little clunky the first couple times we played together and some of the songs have taken a bit of time to figure out how to play, but once we got some momentum it has been fine.
We started with the "hits" then moved on to various tracks from the different eras of the band, adding new more songs for each show. We decided early on that if we were going to do this, we were going to try our best to do it right. So, we've been practicing a lot and working on getting the sounds right as well.

CC: Was there a certain song (or songs) that you gained a whole new appreciation for while playing the recent shows? I imagine you each had to relearn parts, lyrics, or maybe even adapt the way you performed some of the songs. Did rekindling and revisiting the tunes as a band in 2023 create any new personal faves from your catalog?

Jim: I think a surprise has been digging into songs from our final album, **Gilded Stars and Zealous Hearts**. The general rap on that record has been that it is kind of a dud. And we in the band have some mixed feelings about how it came out, but plenty of people have been mentioning songs from that record and we've now got 4 tracks from **Gilded Stars** that that we have played. We re-arranged the song **Gilded Stars** and have punked the others up a bit and it has felt good to play them. When we began talking about playing live we thought about not playing anything from this record, so it has been an interesting and unexpected turn of events.
There are a few older songs we haven't been able to figure out how to play because they are in non-standard guitar tunings, which is kinda womp-womp on us. Maybe one day we'll figure them out!

CC: I grew up listening to Velocity Girl and the songs have a permanent spot in the soundtrack of my life. Seeing the videos of your recent shows has been a real treat for me! So, I have to ask: is there a personal long-time favorite band (that's no longer active) that YOU would love to see get back on stage and play together again?

Jim: Thanks so much for those kind words. It means so much!
As for other bands reforming, I would say I spent decades hoping **The Smiths** would figure out and make music again, but since the passing of **Andy Rourke** that's off the table. It would be fun to see **The Jam** play with the original line up and of course seeing **Fugazi** back in action would be amazing!
But I'll make a prediction: **REM** will reform in 2024 with **Bill Berry** and make a very interesting record reminiscent of their early material. There you go... you heard it here first!

THANKS SO MUCH JIM! - CC

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: MARGARET BRUNDAGE

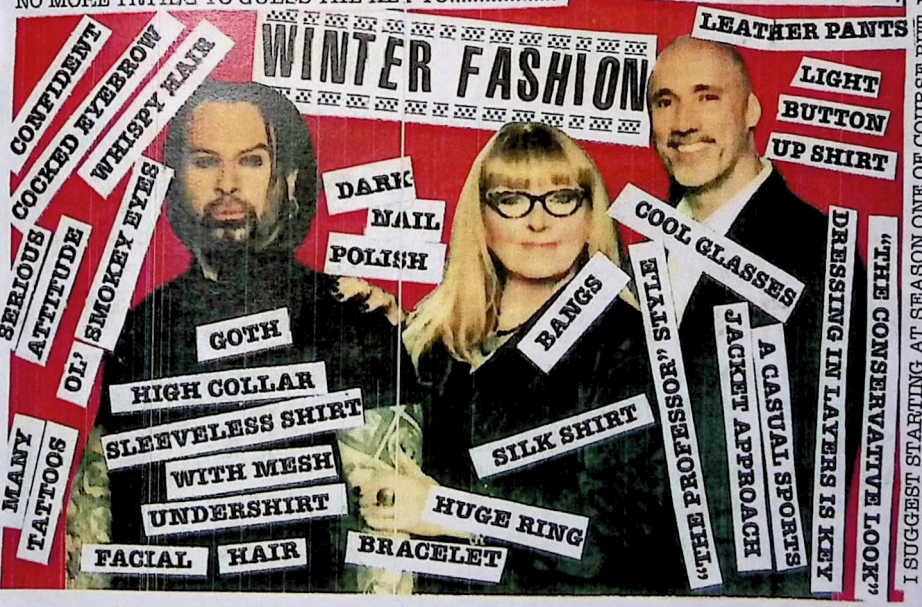
margaret brundage was born in 1900 to immigrant parents in chicago. she graduated from grammer school in 1919 (**walt disney** was a classmate oddly enough) and immediately went to work as an illustrator for newspapers. in the early 1930s she became the cover illustrator for fiction magazines **the magic carpet** and **weird tales**. those cover illustrations have become legendary in the pulp art world through their groundbreaking style and controversial themes. they were so controversial, in fact, that she had to sign her name as "m brundage" in order to not attract the attention of the moral crusaders who wanted to limit female artists in their expressions. although we have her art to admire and appreciate, her story is all too familiar.... after **weird tales** changed headquarters to new york city, they had to follow new decency standards that were imposed on newsstands. this led to brundage getting phased out, and she never really financially recovered from that loss. her final years were of poverty, but she continued to produce art until her death in 1976

TV SHOW REWIND TIME: REMEMBER FACE OFF ??

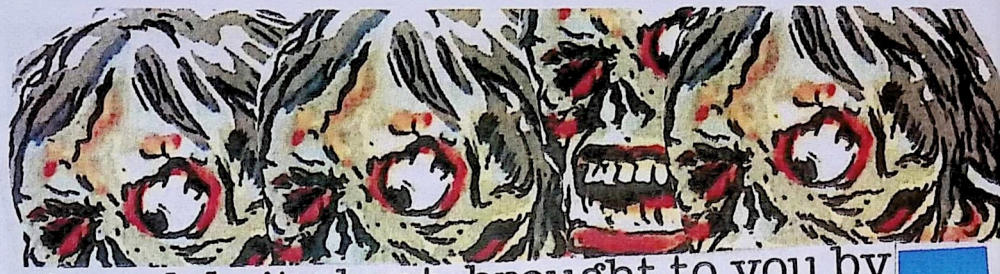
RECENTLY I STARTED RE-WATCHING THE **SYFY** NETWORK COMPETITION SHOW **FACE OFF** AND TURNS OUT, IT HAS AGED **PRETTY DAMN WELL**. IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE PREMISE, IT'S PRETTY SIMPLE. ASPIRING MAKE UP/SPECIAL EFFECTS CONTESTANTS COMPETE EACH WEEK BY COMPLETING SPECIFIC CHALLENGES AND **YEAH YOU GUESSED IT**, EACH WEEK ONE PERSON GETS VOTED OFF. **ANYWAYS** THE REASON I BROUGHT ALL OF THIS UP IS SIMPLE: THE STAR JUDGES OF **FACE OFF** ARE THE SUBJECT FOR THIS ISSUE'S **FASHION COLUMN!!**

HERE IT IS, THE ADVICE YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! NO MORE TRYING TO GUESS THE KEY TO.....

WINTER FASHION



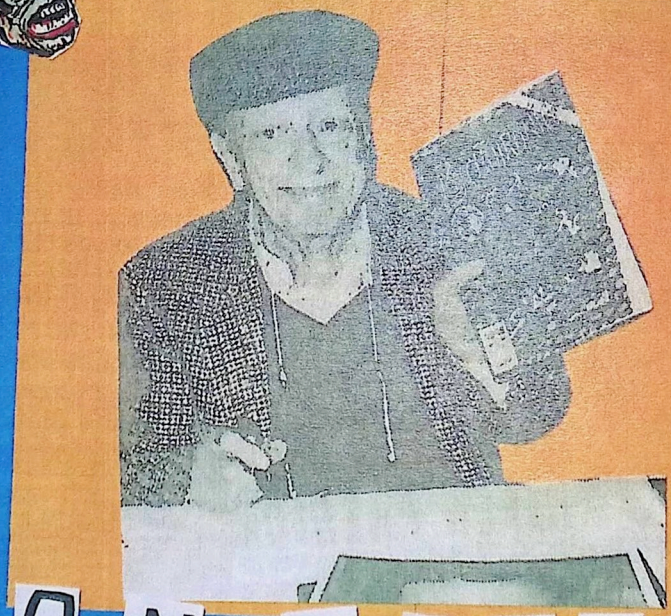
I SUGGEST STARTING AT SEASON ONE OF COURSE BUT YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO, IT'S THE KIND OF SHOW THAT YOU CAN JUMP AROUND AND TAKE WHAT YOU CAN GET IF NEED BE



the celebrity beat, brought to you by cringey

please enjoy this free photo of DON KNOTTS holding a copy of PSYCHOTRONIC magazine

if you photo copy this back page, you can cut this out and put it in a scrapbook, on your locker, on a note to a friend, or even pasted onto your wall at home. thanks for reading!!



DON KNOTTS

IT'S TIME TO LEARN SOMETHING here is some exclusive knowledge regarding work in the home!!!!

HOME IMPROVEMENT FOR THE MASSES VOL.6

I'VE BEEN AGAINST THE USE OF PAINT SPRAYERS FOR MANY YEARS, SO TO THOSE WHO RECENTLY SAW ME PURCHASE ONE: ALLOW ME TO OFFER AN EXPLANATION OF SORTS: IT WAS PURELY AN EXPERIMENT ON MY END TO SEE EXACTLY HOW TIME EFFICIENT THEY ACTUALLY ARE. FULL DISCLOSURE - IT WAS USED OUTDOORS SO PREP WORK WAS MINIMAL. YES, IT MADE THINGS GO FAST BUT WOULD I EVER USE ONE INDOORS?? NOT A CHANCE. Cringey

The E N D.